

Weather Forecast:
Cloudy Tonight and
Saturday

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HOME
EDITION

BATTLES RAGING ALONG THE FRONTIER AS GERMANS WORK TOWARD PARIS

GRAND JURY STARTS PROBE OF FOOD PRICES; CALLS WHOLESALERS

Criminal Prosecutions to Follow If Violation of Law Is Disclosed—Seven-Cent Charge For Bread on War Pretext Declared Inexcusable.

Searching inquiry into the high price of foodstuffs in Washington was started today by the Federal grand jury of the District following a conference between Attorney General McReynolds and District Attorney Clarence R. Wilson. The first witnesses summoned were a number of wholesalers. The individual attention of District Attorney Wilson and his assistant, S. McComas Hawken, is being given the inquiry.

Special investigators of the Department of Justice and district attorneys in numerous large cities report progress today to the Attorney General in President Wilson's campaign against the "rapid and unwarranted increase in prices of foodstuffs upon the pretext of conditions in Europe."

Washington wholesale bakers declare there is no excuse for the reported jump to 7 cents of 5 cent loaves of bread by some grocers.

Poultry, the chief substitute for meat, is at rock bottom prices in Washington today. Commission men report plentiful supply on hand, with shipments coming in steadily and no immediate prospect of a rise in prices.

Mrs. Champ Clark, wife of the Speaker of the House, suggests the substitution of vegetables for meat during the present abnormal prices.

CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS MAY FOLLOW.

The grand jury investigation is being conducted with a view to criminal prosecution of those responsible for the advance in prices, if it is disclosed that a law has been violated.

District Attorney Wilson held a conference with the Attorney General at the Department of Justice this forenoon, at which it was decided to begin the inquiry without delay.

The first step taken by the Government prosecutors was to summon five witnesses to appear before the grand jury this afternoon. Those subpoenaed were E. O. Whitford, president of the Washington Market Company; Thomas Moore, a local representative of the firm Wilson & Rogers, meat and poultry dealers; C. C. Fielding, of the firm of Hoge & McDowell, wholesale grocers, and Frank P. Orbell, of the Orbell Hotel.

These witnesses were called as being representative men in their lines in Washington, and to be questioned as to conditions here. They were not summoned because of any price raising, or any suspicion of contemplated price raising on their part.

In the course of the investigation, the United States Attorney's office already having begun an inquiry prior to the suggestion of the President, with the result that a definite plan of action is being mapped out.

It was intended to go right to the bottom of the matter," said Mr. Wilson today.

Declaring that there is no excuse for any increase in the price of bread at the present time, Washington officials today united in giving assurance that the wholesale figure on the commodity will not be increased until their stocks of flour are exhausted and they are compelled to pay an increased figure for milled wheat.

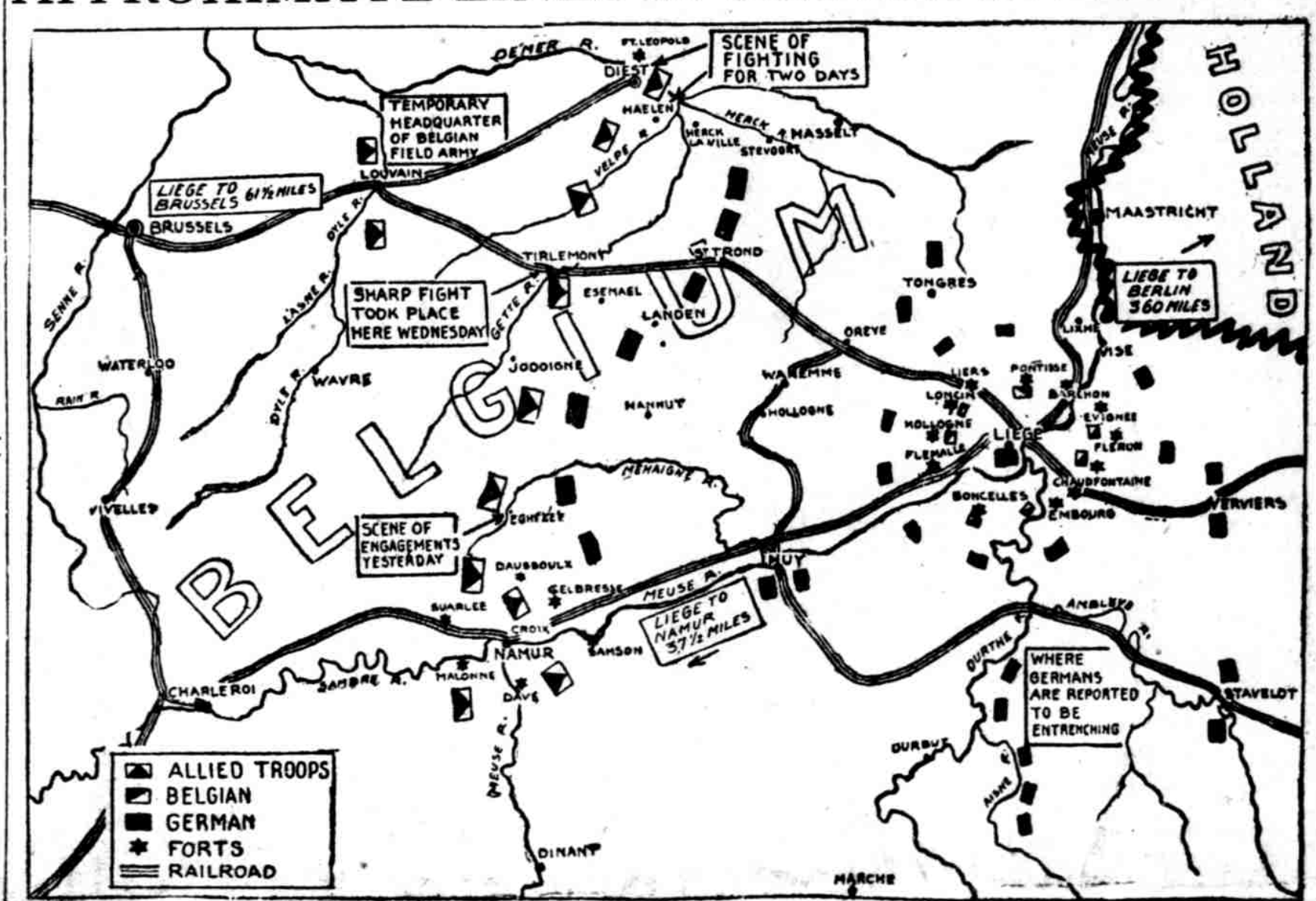
The report that in some groceries 7 cent loaves were being sold at 7 cents today prompted the statement from the wholesale dealers.

There is no excuse for an advanced price of bread at the present time," declared Vice President L. S. Ullman, of the Holmes Baking Company.

"Flour has been as high as it is today a good many times and bread has not advanced. When the Government after anybody who attempts to corner the wheat market, flour will go up no higher than it is today, and there is no possible excuse for 7 cent bread."

Torby Baking Company, Havenner Baking Company, and the Schneider

APPROXIMATE LINES OF BATTLE IN BELGIUM



COURT SAYS NEWMAN IS NOT IN CONTEMPT

Justice Stafford Dismisses Rule in Ouster Suit Obtained by Home Rule Rody.

Justice Stafford of the District Supreme Court held this afternoon that Oliver P. Newman is not guilty of contempt of court as a result of his performing the duties of District Commissioner in alleged defiance of the ouster judgment rendered July 7.

The court discharged the rule, which was issued at the instance of the so-called "home rule committee," requiring Mr. Newman to show cause why he should not be punished for the alleged contempt.

It was pointed out by Justice Stafford that if the supersedeas bond did not permit Mr. Newman to hold office pending the appeal, the District Government would be paralyzed, as the law provides unanimous action by the three Commissioners in many important matters.

Justice Stafford said he did not believe "the District should be made the slave of technicalities," and that public interest should be considered in permitting Mr. Newman to continue in office while the ouster litigation is pending in the upper court.

He also expressed the opinion that Justice Gould, who presides in the ouster proceedings, intended that the judgment should be superseded by the bond filed by Mr. Newman in taking his appeal.

France Asks Turkey For Status of Vessels

PARIS, Aug. 14.—France has addressed a note of inquiry to Turkey relative to the status of the German cruisers Goeben and Breslau, previously reported as having been purchased by Turkey after having escaped the British and French squadrons that chased them from Messina, Italy.

Conflicting reports have reached here, some saying that the German officers and crews are still on the vessels. If this is true, France will peremptorily demand that the cruisers be interned until the end of the war.

The Tribune says: "Preparations made at Messina by the German officers for a noble death and the clearing of the ships for action was a farce. The vessels steamed directly for Turkey, whose government continues to make love to Germany. Turkey's purchase of these vessels is entirely contrary to the laws of warfare and the Italian government must take a strong position against it."

May Expedite War News.

NEW YORK, Aug. 14.—Roy W. Howard, president of the United Press, called for Europe today on board the American liner New York. He is going to London and possibly to the Continent to complete financial arrangements for the various foreign bureaus, and to look into the general news transmission situation.

Reports of German Defeats Explained, Says Expert

By J. W. T. MASON.

German defeats are becoming a little too monotonous to be real, and it is well to bear in mind that Germany's isolation as a naval center continues. The fighting to the west of the Meuse, between Diest and Eghezee, in no sense is made up of battles. Germany is trying to discover the distribution and weakness of the allies across the Meuse, and the strategy being reported are no more than simply reconnaissances in force, as has been pointed out in these columns.

The reports issued by the allies that their own positions remain intact and that the German advance was checked are true technically, but they can be easily misunderstood. The allies probably have several hundred thousand men in Belgium. That the disposition of these troops could be forcibly altered by 5,000 or 10,000 German skirmishers is palpably absurd, while the retreat of the Germans is not a victory for the allies, unless these reconnoitering expeditions have learned nothing. The very necessity for retreating may give the German general staff exactly the information it desires.

The important fact to bear in mind is that Germany wants to select the battlefield in the future, and where that battlefield will be depends largely on the "defeat" now being administered to the Kaiser's skirmishers.

Intimations are contained in dispatches from the front that the Germans are throwing up entrenchments.

U. S. May Censor Cables, As Well As Wireless

While final decision has not been reached regarding cable censorship, present plans of the Administration, it was officially stated today, contemplate playing a censorship on cable lines similar to the present wireless censorship. The plan contemplates maintaining the present censorship on the wireless.

The German charge, under the present arrangement, will be unable to send the code messages, which he now delivers to transmit to Berlin, and which he asked this Government to allow. At the White House, it was stated that nothing was known in regard to the operation of the Tuckerton station for commercial purposes.

Report Two Cruisers Damaged by Germans

TOKYO, Aug. 14.—That the German cruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau have been in battle at sea with either the English cruisers Minotaur and Hampshire, or the French cruisers Duport from Hongkong that two badly battered cruisers have entered that port.

The censor refuses to permit details to be communicated but says they entered Hongkong harbor, they must be either French or English and those named above are known to have been searching for the German cruisers for several days.

Hundreds of Americans Leave France for Home

HAVRE, France, Aug. 14.—Loaded with Americans the French liner Chicago cleared from here today on route to New York. The France of the same line, will sail late today. On board are hundreds of American refugees from the Continent, who have been held in Havre for the last two weeks waiting until the French fleet operating in the Atlantic, reported the ocean lanes clear of German warships.

BRITAIN ANNOUNCES BELGIAN VICTORIES

Warned of German Advance by Aviators, Says English Official Press Bureau.

LONDON, Aug. 14.—The official war press bureau, in its service today, reviewed at some length the operations in Belgium and confirmed the earlier reports from Brussels of Belgian victories in the heavy skirmishing that has taken place.

The bureau says: "On Wednesday a German force of six regiments of cavalry, supported by 2,500 infantry and a heavy detachment of artillery with machine guns moved against the Belgians in an operation directed against Louvain. The Belgian cavalry, similarly supported by infantry and artillery, opposed the German advance."

A fight ensued that lasted all day and covered some fifteen miles of territory. The Belgians, having been apprised of the approach of the enemy by their scouts and aviation corps, were entrenched in a commanding position.

"The Belgian defense was so well maintained that the enemy was completely disorganized, and his cavalry badly cut up. After shelling the approaching German column, the Belgians charged. The German cavalry withdrew leaving many dead and wounded behind, but the German infantry and artillery column was completely routed, and many prisoners and several guns were captured."

On Friday morning the German cavalry division, supported by infantry and a machine gun column, armed with guns mounted on automobiles, was trapped by a force from the Belgian fortifications at Namur, which had been sent out to prevent an attack on these forts. The Germans were defeated and driven eastward, and all of the machine guns were captured.

"Today (Friday) the Belgian army is in entire command of the situation. The Germans have been driven back at every point of attack and there are now no cavalry of his enemy between Hasselt, northwest of Liege, and Ramilles, nineteen miles southeast of Louvain. The Liege forts still hold out unshaken. They are well supplied with food and ammunition and their guns are being served with unerring accuracy."

"General Joffre has conferred the first war medal on Corporal of Dragons, Crocifiori, and the decoration of the Legion of Honor on Lieutenant Bruyant, of the Dragons for conspicuous gallantry in action."

IN CONGRESS TODAY.

SENATE.

Met at 11.

Conference report on shipping registry bill discussed.

Early meeting of the Finance Committee to consider war revenue situation will be held.

HOUSE.

Met at noon.

Considered private bills on Friday calendar.

Secretary Redfield's letter about food prices read.

INVADERS WEARING DOWN DEFENSE WITH STUBBORN ASSAULTS

German Advance Presses Allies Back in Belgium—Censors Refuse Information of Positions to Pass—Heavy Artillery Brought Into Action.

Serious and sustained fighting along the entire battle front is indicated by early morning dispatches announcing that the German army of the Meuse had sent the right wing to develop a reconnaissance in force against the forces of the allies in central Belgium and that the center had been moved forward.

Not a word has come through since the report that the German cavalry, in a dozen engagements, had attacked the allies at dawn.

Behind a veil of impenetrable secrecy operations of tremendous import are being carried on. The Kaiser's army has been making slow but careful progress across Belgium in its march on the French frontier, while the army of the Moselle is developing a concentration upon the French defense beyond Longwy, and in front of the Itenay gap.

So carefully is the Belgium campaign being conducted that it is evident that the German strategists have already selected the battlefield upon which the summary trial of strength will be fought.

Any hour may bring the details.

Already the hospitals of Brussels are insufficient to care for the wounded being brought to the city in steady streams. In addition to the train service, automobiles have been pressed into service and houses and churches and schools and meeting halls are turned into hospitals.

LOSSES ARE APPALLING.

Protests Against a War Loan to France

NEW YORK, Aug. 14.—Protest against the Administration permitting the proposed loan by bankers of \$100,000,000 to France was lodged in a letter to Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo today by Louis W. Fehr, secretary of the Park board of New York city, and prominently identified with German-American societies. He declared the proposed loan as likely to vitiate the efforts of President Wilson to keep the price of necessities and urged the funds and food, which would make the continuance of European war possible, should be kept in the United States.

If kept here for American workers, he held it would make possible the commercial expansion for which opportunity is now given by European neglect of North American and Oriental markets.

Democrats Worry Over Trend of German Vote

Democratic leaders in Congress are concerned over the German vote this fall. They are wondering what effect the censorship of the wireless, which, they say, is hurtful to Germany, will have on the sentiments of German-Americans.

The wireless censorship is only one of several phases of the situation working the Democratic politicians. The talk of amending the national bank act so as to permit bank notes to be considered in counting the reserves, thus releasing large amounts of gold to England, is one of the causes of worry. It is not believed such legislation will be enacted, but if it should be, Germany would doubtless object that it amounted to furnishing England with the sinews of war.

Dutch Mass on Frontier.

The approach of the Germans to Louvain, which is about the same distance from Brussels and the field of Waterloo as Chesapeake Beach is from Washington, has thrown a section of the population of the Belgian capital into panic. It is quite possible that the Germans plan an attack on Brussels as well as on Namur. Possession of the capital would be of considerable strategic importance to the Germans and would have even a greater moral effect on the Belgians than the taking of Namur.

Dutch troops are massed on the Netherlands frontier, as it is feared that if the Germans meet with a serious reverse, they would be driven into Dutch territory.

More French towns in the department of Meurthe-et-Moselle have been shelled by the Germans. The French Government is pouring reinforcements through the defiles of the Vosges mountains to join the French forces in Alsace.

Apparently reliable dispatches from